

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SPECIAL REPORT

of the

COMMISSION ESTABLISHED

TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION AND

STUDY RELATIVE TO THE USE OF

PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS BY

CERTIFIED OPTOMETRISTS ON CHILDREN

UNDER THE AGE OF FOUR YEARS

AND IN PATIENTS WITH PSEUDOPHAKES.

**(under Section 5 of Chapter 654 of
the Acts of 1985 and authorized to
file under the provisions of an order
adopted by the House and Senate
on October 19, 1987).**

October 20, 1987.



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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

AUTHORIZATION FOR STUDY AND REPORT

Section 5 of Chapter 654 of the Acts of 1985

SECTION 5. There is hereby established a special commission consisting of the commissioner of public health or his designee, the chairman of the board of registration in optometry or his designee, the chairman of the board of registration in medicine or his designee, one member of the Massachusetts School Nurses' Association, and one person from the general public, to study the use of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents by certified optometrists on children under the age of four years and in patients with pseudophakes. Said commission shall report the results of its study and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the house of representatives on or before the last Wednesday in December, nineteen hundred and eighty-six.

(Unnumbered House Order of 1987)

Ordered, That the General Court be authorized to accept a report of the special commission established (under Section 5 of Chapter 654 of the Acts of 1985) to make an investigation and study relative to the use of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents by certified optometrists on children under the age of four years and in patients with pseudophakes, which was due on December 31, 1986.

Adopted by:

The House of Representatives, October 19, 1987.

Robert E. MacQueen, Clerk.

The Senate in concurrence, October 19, 1987.

Edward B. O'Neill, Clerk.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
150 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111

Robert E. MacQueen, *Clerk*
Massachusetts House of Representatives
Room 145
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

The accompanying document is the Report of the Special Commission on the Use of Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents which is being delivered to your office in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of Chapter 654 of the Acts of 1985.

We, four of the five members of the Special Commission, endorse the report and its recommendations. Please note that Dr. George Santos chose not to endorse the report.

Gerard E. Desilets, J.D.
Massachusetts Department
of Public Health

Andrea Estabrook, L.P.N.
Massachusetts Federation of
Children with Special Needs

Matthew Garston, O.D.
Massachusetts Board of
Registration in Optometry

Nancy Miller, R.N.
Massachusetts School
Nurses Association

George Santos, M.D.
Massachusetts Board of
Registration in Medicine

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON THE USE OF DIAGNOSTIC PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS.

Chapter 654 of the Acts of 1985 established a special commission to study the use of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents (eye drops) on children under the age of four and on persons with pseudophakes (lens implants). The law stipulated that the five members of this commission represent the Department of Public Health, the Board of Registration in Medicine, the Board of Registration in Optometry, the Massachusetts School Nurses Association and a consumer organization. The Federation of Children with Special Needs was selected as the consumer member. The special Commission was charged to report the results of its study along with any recommendations and legislation necessary to implement its recommendations.

During the course of our deliberations, we specifically considered the concerns raised in the legislation pertaining to the use of eye drops on young children and on persons with lens implants.

The Commission met on several occasions to consider this charge and heard and received expert testimony from eye care specialists representing both optometrists and ophthalmologists. The following is a presentation of the Commission's recommendations for meeting the concerns expressed in Chapter 654.

As to the issue of whether an optometrist may safely use a pharmaceutical agent to diagnose eye disease in a person with pseudophakes or lens implants, Commission members have determined, based upon the medical evidence presented at our meetings, that optometrists are qualified to use diagnostic pharmaceutical agents on persons with pseudophakes. However, where the pseudophakes or lens implants is iris-fixed, or attached to the iris, the Commission believes optometrists should not be permitted to use mydiatic agents. Thus the Commission recommends that the statutory prohibition on the administration of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents to persons with pseudophakes be repealed and replaced by a proviso which prohibits the administration of mydriatic agents by optometrists upon persons with iris-fixed pseudophakes.

On the issue of whether optometrist may safely administer a diagnostic pharmaceutical agent to a child under the age of four, Commission members determined that optometrists are qualified to do so but recommend that the undergraduate course of study required under the statute be amended to reflect the need for course work specific to the diagnosis and treatment of children. The recommended course requirements are included within the legislative recommendation accompanying this report.

To further promote the quality of eye care delivered to children, the Commission further recommends that every optometrist or eye physician who examines a child who has failed a school entry eye exam, given in accordance with Section 56 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, be required to submit a written report, on a form developed by the Department of Public Health, to the child's school health personnel. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the parent, parents or legal guardian of the child. The above recommendation is contained within the accompanying legislation proposal.

Another issue raised during the course of our discussions was the possibility that some patients may have adverse reactions to diagnostic pharmaceutical agents. Documentation of the problem was insufficient to assist the Commission in arriving at any specific recommendation on the possible adverse effects of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents. Commission members did conclude that this matter merited the further attention of the Board of Registration of Optometry and recommends that all adverse reactions to diagnostic pharmaceutical agents administered by optometrists be reported to the board for the purpose of studying the issue further. This recommendation is contained within the accompanying legislative proposal.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven.

AN ACT RELATING TO THE USE OF DIAGNOSTIC PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section fifty-seven of chapter seventy-one of the
2 General Laws, as most recently amended by chapter one hundred
3 and eleven of 1980, is hereby amended by inserting after the third
4 sentence, the following new sentences: —

5 A person who conducts an eye examination in response to a
6 child's having failed the eye exam given in accordance with this
7 section shall forward a written report of the results of the
8 examination to the school health personnel and a copy to the
9 parent, parents, or legal guardian of the child. Said report shall
10 include, but not be limited to, the following:

_____, Massachusetts
Date, _____

Dear Doctor:

As you know, our school children have recently been screened for visual defects via the Massachusetts Vision Test procedures. Parents of those children failing the test have been asked to take the children to their own eye specialist.

In order that we may provide any educational adjustments you recommend, will you please fill out the form below and return it to me.

Nurses Notes:

Child's Name _____ Date _____

School _____ Grade _____

Type of Examination _____

Brief summary of significant findings:

Diagnosis: _____

Medication Used: _____

Duration of Action of Medication: _____

Treatment:

Prognosis:

Return visit recommended in _____ months.

I advise the following educational adjustments for the child:

() 1. None at present

() 2. Preferential seating in the classroom

Front _____ Back _____

() 3. Glasses for full-time use in school

() 4. Glasses for part-time use in school

() 5. Sight-saving glasses

() 6. Other recommendations: _____

Signed _____

Address _____

1 SECTION 2. Section sixty-six A chapter one hundred and
2 twelve of the General Laws as most recently amended by section
3 one hundred and six A of chapter five hundred and fifty-seven
4 of 1986, is hereby amended by striking the first paragraph and
5 inserting in place thereof, the following new paragraph: —

6 Any registered optometrist, qualified by examination for
7 practice under the provisions of section sixty-eight subsequent to
8 January first, nineteen hundred and eighty-four or duly certified
9 in accordance with the provisions of section sixty-eight A, may
10 for the purpose of conducting an examination of the eye, and not
11 for therapeutic purposes, utilize the topical application to the eye
12 of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents, provided, however, that
13 mydriatic agents may not be administered to a person with an iris-
14 fixed pseudophakes.

1 SECTION 3. Section sixty-seven of chapter one hundred and
2 twelve of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section
3 two of chapter three hundred and thirty-nine of the acts of 1934,
4 is hereby amended by inserting after the third sentence, the
5 following new sentence: —

6 Said report shall include a listing of the reports, if any, of
7 adverse reactions to the administration of diagnostic pharmaceu-
8 tical agents in accordance with section sixty-eight A of this
9 chapter.

1 SECTION 4. Section sixty-eight of chapter one hundred and
2 twelve of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking the
3 second sentence, and inserting in place thereof the following new
4 sentences: —

5 Every applicant for examination shall present satisfactory
6 evidence, in the form of affidavits properly sworn to, that he is
7 eighteen years of age or older and of good moral character, that
8 he has graduated from a high school having a course of study of
9 four years and approved by the board or has had preliminary
10 education equivalent to at least four years in public high school,
11 and that he has graduated from a school or college of optometry,
12 approved by the board, maintaining a course of study of not less
13 than two years with a minimum requirement of fifteen hundred

14 attendance hours or in the case of a person applying for a first
15 examination after January first, nineteen hundred and thirty-five,
16 maintain a course of study of not less than three separate academic
17 years, each academic year consisting of thirty-six weeks of
18 classroom work with thirty hours of instruction each week and
19 this course of study shall include ninety-five hours of study in the
20 following areas:

21 (A) General Pharmacology: four hours in biochemistry; eight
22 hours in general physiology, two of which shall be in pediatric
23 physiology; eight hours in pharmacology, three of which shall be
24 in pediatric pharmacology; and ten hours in indications and
25 ocular effects of commonly prescribed drugs, two hours of which
26 shall be in indications of effects in pediatric situations.

27 (B) Ocular pharmacology: eight hours in ocular pharmacology
28 and eight hours in the study of particular topically applied agents,
29 including but not limited to, anesthetics, dyes, mydriatics,
30 cycloplegics, and contact lens solutions.

31 (C) Interpretation and patient management: five hours each in
32 the study of posterior and anterior segment; two hours in pediatric
33 eye diseases; two hours in glaucoma; and one hour in ocular
34 emergency.

35 (D) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including treatment of
36 anaphylaxis: four hours.

37 (E) Supervised clinical practice, including six hours in pediatric
38 practice: thirty hours.

1 SECTION 5. Section sixty-eight of chapter one hundred and
2 twelve of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
3 the third paragraph, the following new paragraph: —

4 Anyone certified under this section who observes a patient's
5 adverse reaction to a diagnostic pharmaceutical agent, shall report
6 said observance and any comment thereon to the Board of
7 Registration in Optometry.



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